

**CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 15, 1999**  
**FRESNO, CALIFORNIA**

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The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on December 15, 1999 at Fresno City Hall in Fresno, California.

Members Present:     Michael Tennenbaum, Chairman  
                             Edward Graveline, Vice Chairman  
                             Jim Mills  
                             Dr. Ernest A. Bates  
                             Jerry Epstein

**Approval of Minutes for November 17, 1999 Meeting**

Chairman Tennenbaum presented the minutes for approval. Member Epstein moved to approve the minutes. Member Bates seconded the motion, which carried 5-0. (Members Leonard, Fowler, Stapleton and Andrews were absent.)

**Legislative Outlook**

On behalf of Senator Poochigian, Mary Alice Kaloostian attended the meeting. Ms. Kaloostian read a letter written by Senator Poochigian. A copy of the letter is available upon request.

Vice-Chairman Graveline then introduced Senator Jim Costa. Senator Costa welcomed the Authority to Fresno and commended the Authority on its hard work done since its creation. He further stated that he and Senator Quentin Kopp introduced the original enabling legislation with the hope that the Authority would allow California to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with a state of the art high-speed rail system. Senator Costa stated that due to the inevitable population increase in California, a high-speed rail system will be necessary and will provide for economic growth. He stated that what he liked specifically about the Authority's Business Plan, was that the Authority provides both the Legislature and the Governor options and flexibility. He then stated that he and Assembly Member Dean Florez would be developing new legislation for the High Speed Rail Authority to make the Authority a permanent entity. The Senator stated that the Authority faces the challenge of how to fit a high-speed rail system into a larger infrastructure package, and to decide what part high-speed rail will play in our efforts to provide more financing for transportation needs in California. He stated that he is an advocate of high-speed rail because it is logical, and something that should be done for Californians. He stated that high-speed rail is not "Buck Rogers," but that it is proven technology that is "shelf ready."

Vice-Chairman Graveline introduced Assembly Member Dean Florez. Assembly Member Florez began by thanking the Authority for coming to Fresno. Assembly Member Florez stated that the new legislation Senator Costa spoke of would center on four major points: 1) make the Authority a permanent entity, 2) define the terms of Board Members to allow Governor Davis an opportunity to appoint new members, and 3) the Authority to do an Environmental Impact Report that would include a request for \$25 million.

Assembly Member Florez stated he was in agreement with Senator Costa in that high-speed rail in California is imperative. He reiterated that due to the inevitable population increase that a high-speed rail system was a logical solution. Assembly Member Florez also stated that he was confident that upon presentation of the draft Business Plan and the new legislation, that the Authority would have legislative support.

### **Presentations from Local/Regional Agencies**

Ken Stites, Council President, City of Fresno, was present on behalf of Mayor Jim Patterson. Mr. Stites welcomed the Authority to Fresno, and stated that he would like existing corridors to be used including a downtown station in Fresno.

Jeff Reid, City Manager, City of Fresno thanked the Authority for coming to Fresno. Mr. Reid stated that the city of Fresno would be a strong advocate of moving forward with high-speed rail.

Senator Costa spoke on behalf of Fresno County. He stated that on the behalf of the County, he would like to encourage wise use of land and resources the valley.

Mr. Stebbins Dean, CEO for the Fresno Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Dean stated he agreed with Senator Costa on the proper use of land and resources in the valley. He also stated the Chamber of Commerce is in full support of high-speed rail. Mr. Dean concluded that Californians should have an opportunity to vote on high-speed rail either way.

Ms. Debbie Hunsaker, representing the Central San Joaquin Valley Transportation Foundation. Ms. Hunsaker stated one of the goals of the Foundation is to educate the public about the need for high-speed rail in the valley.

### **Members Report**

Chairman Tennenbaum asked if any Members had anything to report. No Members had anything to report.

### **Executive Director Report**

Executive Director Morshed reported that Member Bill Leonard was the recipient of the California State University at San Bernardino Arrowhead Distinguished Chief Executive Officer Award on November 19, 1999. Executive Director Morshed also stated that Members Leonard, Stapleton, Andrews, and Fowler could not attend the Fresno meeting because two of the members were ill, one had a family emergency, and one had another meeting to attend and was not able to work out the travel arrangements. Executive Director Morshed wanted to make it clear that their absence was not due to "lack of interest."

Executive Director Morshed reminded the Board that the next Authority meeting would be on January 19, 2000 in Sacramento.

Executive Director Morshed stated that he met with Assembly Member Florez and the editorial board of the Bakersfield Californian on December 14 to talk about high-speed rail. He stated that the board was very interested in the subject.

### **Contract Amendment and Sole Source Contract Authorization**

Executive Director Morshed requested the Board's approval on two items:

1. Authorize Executive Director Morshed to augment the outreach contract to the limit of the budget. Member Mills moved to approve the motion, and Member Epstein seconded the motion, which carried 5-0. (Members Leonard, Fowler, Stapleton and Andrews were absent.)
2. Authorize Executive Director Morshed to enter into a sole source contract, pending agreement from the Department of General Services, with Parsons Brinkerhoff, since more work than originally contracted is and will be required. Member Epstein moved to approve the motion, and Vice-Chairman Graveline seconded the motion, which carried 5-0. (Members Leonard, Fowler, Stapleton and Andrews were absent.)

### **Authority Members Meetings for Compensation**

Executive Director Morshed presented the list of meetings for compensation. Member Bates moved to approve the list, Member Epstein seconded the motion, which carried 5-0. (Members Leonard, Fowler, Stapleton and Andrews were absent.)

### **Board of Advisor Appointments**

Vice-Chairman Graveline introduced Mr. Harry Yasamoto of San Luis Obispo as his recommendation for an appointment to the Board of Advisors. Member Epstein moved to approve the appointment, Member Mills seconded the motion, which carried 5-0. (Members Leonard, Fowler, Stapleton and Andrews were absent.).

### **Review and Approval of the Draft Business Plan**

Executive Director Morshed reminded the Board that once the draft Business Plan is approved by the Members that a professional team of editors/proofreaders would go over the Business Plan to make final corrections.

Chairman Tennenbaum polled each Member individually for comments on the draft Business Plan. He began with Member Epstein.

Member Epstein commented that he felt that the Business Plan was very well written. He also stated that overall he was satisfied, but had a few concerns. He further stated that he would like to go over his changes with Executive Director Morshed.

Member Bates commented that he felt the draft Business Plan was a good one, but that it did require some edits.

Vice-Chairman Graveline stated that he was satisfied with the draft.

Member Mills stated that he felt the draft was well done. He further stated that he had one change, and that he already submitted his input.

Chairman Tennenbaum stated that he felt the Letter to the Governor should not describe the project as ambitious or optimistic undertaking. He felt that instead it should reflect the degree of

urgency that each Member feels about proceeding with the project. Chairman Tennenbaum also stated that he felt that more support was needed for the “sensitivity analysis.”

Chairman Tennenbaum invited members of the public to comment at this time.

Mr. Sheldon Sloan, City of Palmdale, stated that he was pleased that the public will have an opportunity to comment in a forum that offers more than a two minute time slot for each member of the public to speak.

Mr. Bob Schaevitz, City of Palmdale, stated that he enthusiastically supports the idea of having public workshops, and that he and the City of Palmdale will be prepared by the middle of January to present the City’s request for a station in Palmdale.

Mr. Jess Ortiz, Mayor, City of Arvin, commended the Authority for coming to Fresno and commended the Authority for it’s hard work on the Business Plan. He stated that he offers continued support of high-speed rail.

Member Epstein moved to approve the draft Business Plan. Member Mills seconded the motion, which was carried 5-0. (Members Leonard, Fowler, Stapleton and Andrews were absent.)

#### **Maglev Deployment Program Update.**

Al Perdon, Project Manager. Mr. Perdon discussed the two major work products being prepared under the Maglev Deployment pre-construction planning program, pursuant to the agreement between the State of California and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Mr. Perdon’s presentation is available upon request.

#### **Review and Comment on Public Hearing Process**

Executive Director Morshed stated that the current plan is that once the editing is complete, the draft Business Plan will go to print and should be available for distribution in early January. He further states that once the distribution is made, the next stage is to arrange for workshops and meetings to present the Business Plan to the public and receive comment. Executive Director Morshed stated that Authority staff feels this stage will take a minimum of three months, at a rate of one meeting per week, with a total of 15 meetings. Executive Director Morshed also stated that as many Board members as possible should attend each of these meetings.

Executive Director Morshed introduced Max Besler, representing Townsend, Raimundo, Besler and Usher. Mr. Besler presented the schedule and plan for the public hearing process. Mr. Besler’s presentation is available upon request.

Member Mills moved to approve the motion. Member Bates seconded the motion, which carried 5-0. (Members Leonard, Fowler, Stapleton and Andrews were absent.)

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.**